

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071844

LIMDIS

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT ANKARA 2920 DATED 16 APR 73 SENT ACTION
SECSTATE

QUOTE. C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2920

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, TU

SUBJ: VISIT TO TURKEY BY PRESIDENT NIXON

REF ANKARA 8139, NOV 15, 1972

1. AFTER GENERAL DISCUSSION TURKISH- US RELATIONS REPORTED
SEPTEL, FORMIN BAYULKEN SET FORTH WHAT I JUDGED
TO HAVE BEEN A PRE- PREPARED SUGGESTION FOR A VISIT TO
TURKEY BY PRESIDENT NIXON. ECHOING EARLIER PROPOSAL
(REFTEL) HE QUOTED FORMER PRIME MINISTER NIHA ERIM
TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT HAD SAID HE WANTED VERY MUCH TO
VISIT TURKEY, " NOT JUST AS A PART OF A TOUR, BUT A
SPECIAL VISIT JUST TO MY FIRENDS, THE TURKS." BAYULKEN
SAID THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE MORE THAN JUST A
COURTESY ONE TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS. " IT WOULD HELP
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DEMOCRACY IN THIS COUNTRY. IT WOULD ALSO BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL DURING THIS TIME OF DETENTE." HE DID NOT SUGGEST A DATE BUT CLEARLY HAD THE 50 TH ANNIVERSARY PERIOD (THE SECOND HALF OF 1973) IN MIND.

2. I REALIZE INTENSE COMPETING DEMANDS ON PRESIDENT' S TIME AND THAT PROBABLY EVERY AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IS CONVINCED THE BEST THING THAT COULD BE DONE FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE COUNTRY IN WHICH HE IS STATIONED WOULD BE A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. I VERY MUCH BELIEVE THIS IN THE CASE OF TURKEY. YET, SINCE I AM ON THE EVE OF DEPARTING THIS COUNTRY AFTER FOUR YEARS, I THINK I CAN CLAIM SOME OBJECTIVITY IN STRONGLY URGING CONSIDERATION OF A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT HERE LATER THIS YEAR.

3. TO PLAY HOST, TURKEY NOW HAS A NEW AND WIDELY RESPECTED PRESIDENT (KORUTURK) WHO WILL BE IN OFFICE FOR SEVEN YEARS. BAYULKEN' S IDEA WAS THAT THE VISIT, IF IT COULD BE ARRANGED, WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE BEFORE THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS. BUT, IN MY VIEW, ALMOST REGARDLESS OF TIMING, A VISIT THIS YEAR WOULD INDEED " STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY IN THIS COUNTRY." IT WOULD ALSO " IN THIS TIME OF DETENTE" TRULY CARRY TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD THE SAME CLEAR MESSAGE THAT WE HAVE BEEN SOUNDING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THAT THE US, WHATEVER ITS CHANGING RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW AND PEIKING, STILL VALUES AND STANDS BY ITS TRADITIONAL ALLIES.

4. MY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REGARD SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE REVIEWED BY AMBASSADOR MACOMBER AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HERE, BUT IN THE MEANTIME I HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITEHOUSE WILL DO WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE TO KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY FOR SUCH A VISIT.
HANDLEY

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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